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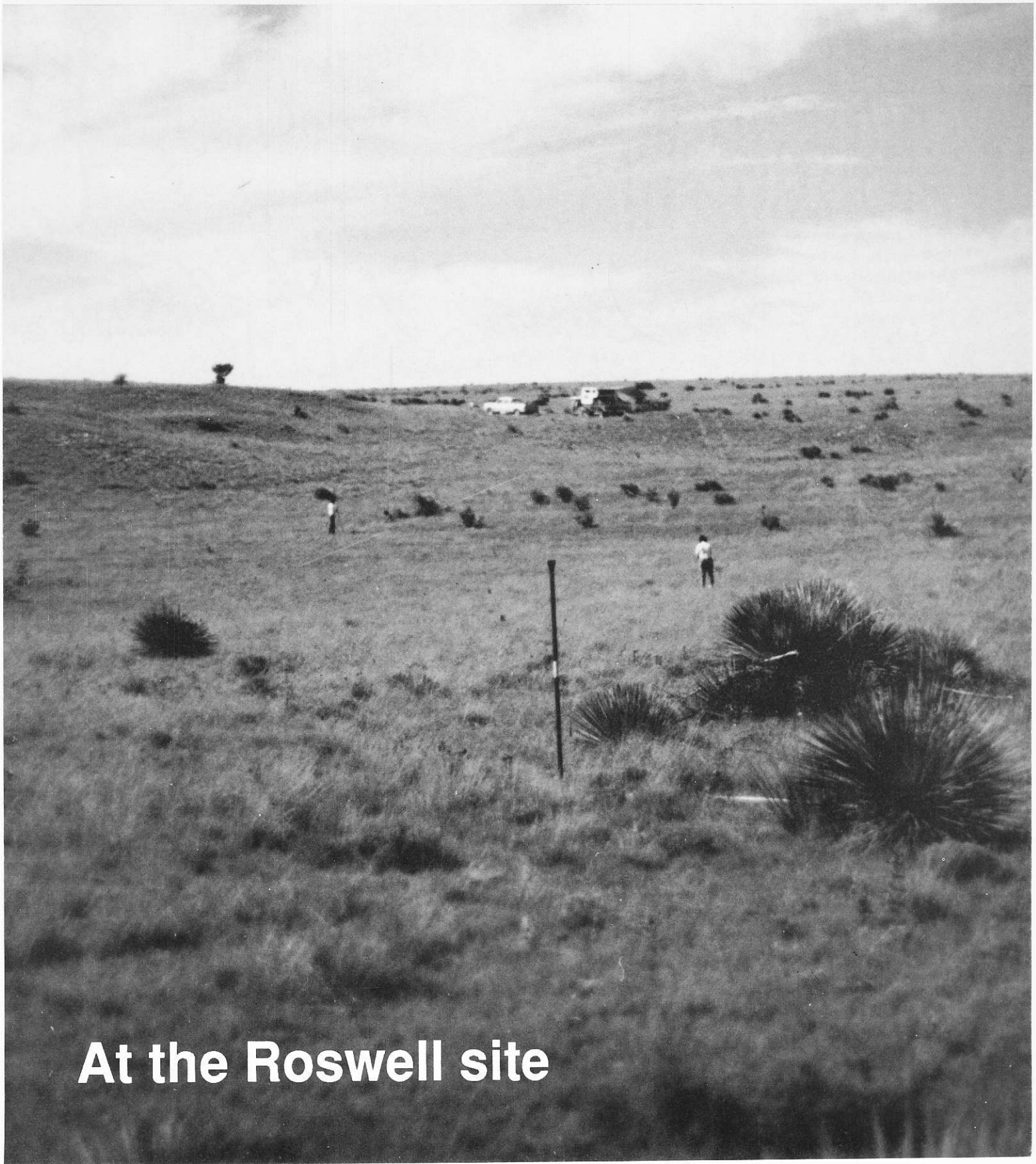
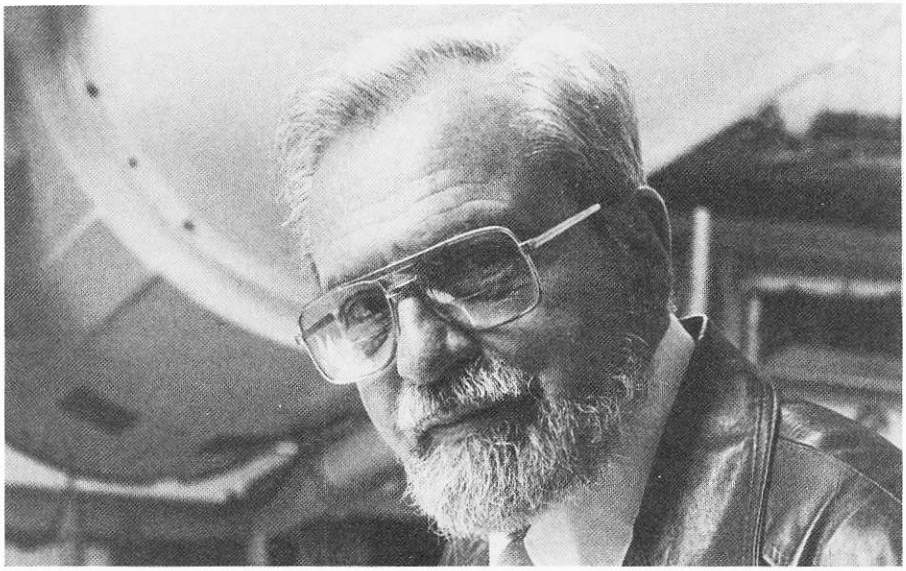


At the Roswell site

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER



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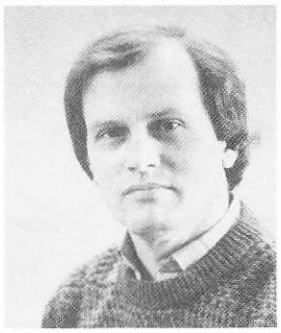
EDITORIAL

Wild goose



Jerome Clark

Two and a half years ago, the MJ-12 briefing document, allegedly written in November 1952 to inform President-elect Eisenhower of two UFO crashes (Roswell, 1947, and the Texas-Mexico border, 1950) and of a supersecret project called Majestic-12, was unleashed on the world, by Bill Moore in California and Timothy Good in England. Today the issue remains unsettled, though at the moment the skeptics seem to have the upper hand. (They argue that the signature of President Truman on another alleged MJ-12 document, which arrived on the same roll of 35mm film that the briefing document did, is identical to Truman's signature on another, undisputed, non-UFO document from the same period, the implication being that a hoaxer appended a real signature to a bogus document.) Within a few weeks Stanton Friedman will have submitted his report on his investigation to the Fund for UFO Research, which gave him $16,000 with which to conduct the inquiry.

At that time perhaps we will be able to come to a fully-informed judgment. And perhaps then, too, we will have a chance to reflect on whether it would have been wiser to spend that money on further investigation of the Roswell incident, next to which MJ-12 (for which so far evidence barely exists) is a distinctly secondary issue. It is sadly true that the MJ-12 uproar, for all the paper it has generated, has produced not much of substance (and not a single serious researcher, even Friedman, willing to identify himself as a "proponent" of the document). Certainly the MJ-12 affair has done little to enhance any real understanding of how the United States government dealt with the UFO phenomenon, including the presumed hard evidence from the Roswell crash.

This is not to say that the briefing paper is unworthy of investigation; it certainly ought to have been, and to be, looked into, at least as time and resources permit. But in retrospect it seems clear that Roswell, not MJ-12, should have remained the primary focus. It is too bad that the issue of the cover-up was allowed to drift from something substantive (just *how* substantive will become clear next year when *IUR* reports in full on what CUFOS' Roswell investigation has uncovered) to a document sent anonymously and presumably by individuals already implicated in what everyone now acknowledges to be the spread of disinformation. It must also be noted that it was out of the MJ-12 swamp that the lurid pulp fantasies of John Lear, Bill Cooper and Bill English bubbled to the surface. According to Bill Moore, himself a central figure in the MJ-12 controversy, those tall tales about man-eating aliens were cooked up (so to speak) by intelligence-agency people seeking further to confuse an already deluded UFO buff. Moore acknowledges that he helped the process along. As he told an audience at this year's MUFON conference, "The entire story of a secret treaty between the U.S. government and the aliens, of exchanges of technology between us and the aliens, of battles between aliens and American armed forces, and of aliens allegedly having implanted human beings ... came about as a result of this process. I know because I was in a position to observe much of this process as it unfolded and I was providing regular reports on its effectiveness to some of the very people who were 'doing it'...."

It requires neither imagination nor paranoia to conclude that it was also done to Moore, who over a period of years (and continuing even now) has been the recipient — not the only one — of astonishing but unverifiable tales about Extraterrestrial Biological Entities, including live ones in government custody. Moore's informants, said to be military-intelligence people, produced (despite promises) no documentation for any of these claims, which had at least the advantage of being less insultingly illogical than Lear-Cooper-English's brainless scenario. As I remarked in an earlier editorial (*IUR*, September/October 1988), these sorts of claims "make a certain hypothetical sense," given what might have followed from a Roswell incident (such as an attempt to contact the controlling intelligences behind the UFO phenomenon to learn what their purpose is), but "the evidence supporting them is all but nonexistent."

One of the interesting features of the MJ-12 paper, not often remarked on, is that it is not in concordance with the EBE story. As the EBE story (or at least a part of it) goes, in 1949 one EBE survived a UFO crash and spent the next three years at Los Alamos before expiring in 1952. Supposedly EBE was blabbing the full story of the ET visitation to his captors — a detail curiously absent from the Eisenhower briefing document. At the same time, as *IUR* readers will learn in future issues, the briefing paper's account of the Roswell event is essentially accurate. That is, I suppose, of some small comfort to whoever still harbors hope for the briefing paper's authenticity. Another small source of comfort has been

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Roswell, 1989

by Mark Rodeghier

■■ **Mark Rodeghier is president and scientific director of CUFOS.**

The Roswell UFO crash of 1947 remains one of the great unsolved mysteries of ufology. As most *IUR* readers know, something peculiar crashed on an isolated ranch in south central New Mexico in early July 1947. The U.S. military went to extraordinary lengths to investigate the crash and to conceal its interest and the true nature of the object. An initial press release, dated July 8, claimed that the Army Air Force had recovered a flying disc, as UFOs were then called. Later that same day, the claim was retracted and the object was said to be a weather balloon.

Behind the scenes the government was using all available means to quash public interest in the story. The site was sealed and reporters were not allowed access. Agents visited radio stations and seized notes that reporters had made. Military personnel ferrying the debris from Roswell were given misleading stories about what they were guarding. The intelligence officer (Jesse Marcel) who first retrieved some of the debris was not allowed to see the report on the incident.

The cover-up was executed with such dispatch and precision that the Roswell event faded quickly from public view. Early UFO investigators paid no attention to the incident, and Ted Bloecher, in his excellent catalog *The UFO Wave of 1947*, lists the cause of the event as a downed weather balloon.

No government secret seems safe these days, however, and the Roswell crash is no exception. In the late 1970s, Jesse Marcel decided to reveal his role in the event. Until then most ufologists had put little credence in stories of "crash-retrievals" of UFOs, with the notable exception of Len Stringfield. Marcel's story was so convincing and he was such a compelling witness that William Moore and Stanton Friedman decided that the Roswell crash deserved further attention. The result of their work was published in 1980 in Moore and Charles Berlitz's book *The Roswell Incident*.

Since then Moore had added somewhat to the book's details in several papers he has written on various aspects of the Roswell cover-up. Interest among ufologists in the event has increased greatly in the 1980s, and the crash has been discussed in the print and broadcast media with some frequency. This is how matters stood in the fall of 1988, when CUFOS became involved in the investigation.

Don Schmitt, CUFOS Director of Special Investigations, has been meeting quietly with Friedman and Moore for several years, keeping tabs on their investigation of the MJ-12 document and discussing aspects of the Roswell event. At one of these meetings, Schmitt discovered inadvertently that, contrary to everyone's understanding, the investigation of the Roswell incident was incomplete. Friedman revealed that many witnesses remained to be interviewed in full and that new witnesses, both civilian and military, could likely still be located.

This important (and startling) information came to my attention at a fortuitous moment. A CUFOS associate in Chicago, interested in government involvement in UFO investigation, had been studying the details of the Roswell incident as described in the book and in Moore's papers. He had found inconsistencies in the timeline of events, puzzling omissions, and odd behavior on the part of the military that Moore did not discuss. Together we were unable to make much headway in resolving these problems, and it was clear that additional investigation was necessary. Schmitt's report that more potential witnesses were available came as welcome news.

Also in the fall of 1988, Schmitt began working closely with Kevin Randle, whose *The UFO Casebook* would be published a year later. Randle, who is a former military intelligence officer, became interested in the Roswell event after talking with Schmitt at a debate on UFOs held at a science-fiction convention. Initially skeptical, Randle became convinced that something unusual had occurred at Roswell, and he and Schmitt have been working steadily on the reinvestigation for the last year.

As the CUFOS investigation proceeded, two lacunae in the prior investigations of Roswell became quickly evident. The first was that many of the primary witnesses had not been interviewed systematically or in depth. The second was that the actual site of the crash had not been studied. No search had been made for possible debris still remaining at or near the impact point.

We have been working diligently to remedy these shortcomings. Over the past year, Schmitt and Randle have interviewed over 150 individuals who are in some way connected with the event. The story of their investi-

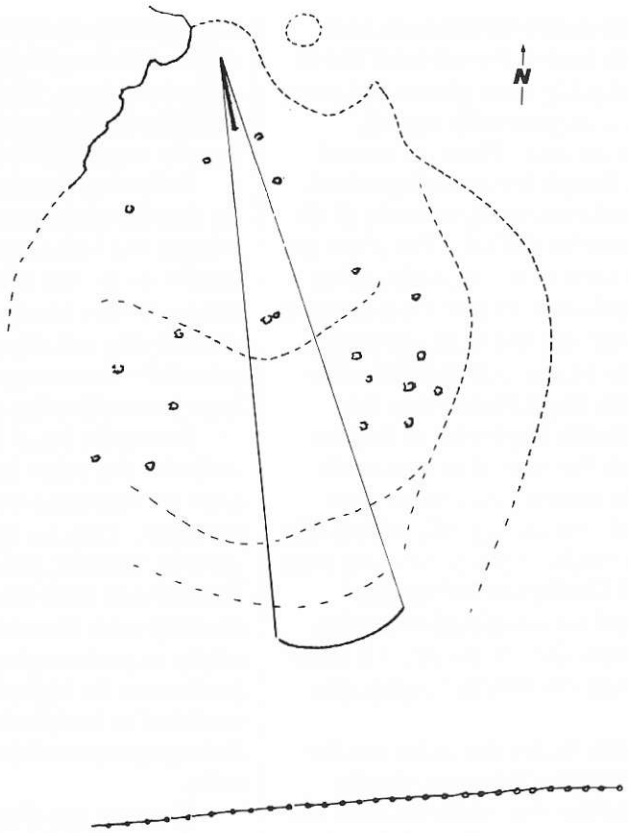

Figure 1. The site with a 150-yard gouge running from northwest to southeast

gation and its results will be told at a later date, but almost everything they learn only further confirms the extraordinary nature of the Roswell event.

We have used the results of their interviews, especially those with Bill Brazel, son of the ranchhand who first discovered the debris, to plan and execute a systematic study of the Roswell crash site. As far as I am aware, this investigation by CUFOS is the first-ever scientific study of any site where a UFO crashed and was then retrieved by the military. The remainder of this article is a preliminary, nontechnical report concerning the activities and results of the 1989 CUFOS Roswell expedition, conducted from September 15 to 19.

The Roswell site

The Roswell crash, though named after the town and military base where the debris was taken, actually occurred over 80 miles to the northwest. There is no town, of any size, within 30 miles of the site. The site is located in Lincoln County, famous for range wars in the late 1800s. Billy the Kid is buried not far away. The area consists of large ranches which raise mainly cattle and sheep. In many respects the area is little changed from the 1940s. It is difficult to convey just how isolated is this portion of New Mexico, but one detail should give you a sense of it: The current manager of the ranch got his first phone *three years ago*. The extreme isolation of the crash site in 1947 made it much easier for the military to put the cover-up in place.

Most of the CUFOS team stayed in Vaughn, New Mexico, each night. This town, the largest in the area, is still quite small but did have a 24-hour convenience store and gas station, a boon to the expedition. We drove 90 minutes each morning to get to the site and 90 minutes back in the evening. As befits the isolation of the site, the roads become progressively worse as one nears the area. The last 10 to 15 miles consist of horribly rutted dirt roads and, finally, about one mile over open range land. The motel was a welcome sight each evening. We had considered camping near the site, and two members of the team did so in a small camper, but we were unable to secure the necessary equipment for everyone.

The CUFOS team had 10 members, three of whom were scientists, two with training in archeology and the collection of soil samples. Mimi Hynek, Allen Hynek's widow and CUFOS board member, was a member of the team, as were Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle. We were in New Mexico for five days, three days of which we were actually at the site. The first day, September 15, was spent gathering equipment, supplies, and additional maps in Albuquerque. The last day, September 19, was occupied with packing, reviewing our work, and making future plans.

The site itself is at an elevation of approximately 6000 feet on the broad plateau from which the Rocky

Mountains rise. It is a semi-desert environment, and though there are some trees nearby, the site itself has no large vegetation. It is covered by short grasses and yucca plants (with sharp leaves, I can personally report), scattered irregularly about the area. There are several types of rocks in the area, though limestone is predominant. The ground is covered extensively by rocks of all sizes, making digging somewhat difficult. The photo on the cover of this issue is a view of the crash site, taken from the south, looking northwest. Figure 1 is a sketch of the site, giving an idea of the size and local topography.

We were able to locate the site with the kind assistance of Bill Brazel. As you might expect from the description above, it is basically impossible to find the site without help. There are few natural or man-made features for orientation (the nearest ranch house is six miles distant), and the land consists of gently-rolling hills between 20 and 60 feet in height. Even plotting the exact position of the site on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps was tricky and not completed on the first day. This was chiefly because the contour interval on the map was too crude to capture the details of topography visible to the eye.

As we discovered on the second day at the site, the area is infested with rattlesnakes. Two were seen by members of the team during our stay, so the decision not to sleep on the ground in sleeping bags turned out to be wise. We asked a ranchhand about the snakes, and when we told him we had seen two, he thought for a second, and then said, "Only two?" Luckily no cattle or sheep decided to graze on the site during our stay (though some came at night), but we did see jackrabbits, deer and elk.

The spot of initial impact is located in a small draw (valley), about 600 feet wide and 800 feet long. Bill Brazel saw the site a few days after the soldiers had picked up what debris they could find, and he remembers a shallow gouge in the soil running from northwest to southeast, about 150 yards long. He describes the gouge as incomplete, as if the object skipped as it struck the ground. No obvious evidence of the crash is now visible, either as disturbed vegetation, as a low spot in the ground, or as rocks strewn in some clear pattern. The rocky nature of the soil implies that an object crashing at a low angle of incidence might skip rather than penetrate softer soil, consistent with Brazel's testimony.

Jesse Marcel reported finding debris scattered over an area several hundred feet wide by over three-quarters of a mile long. As we did an initial inspection of the site by foot, it became evident that, as we had suspected, three days would not be sufficient to do more than a preliminary study. There was simply too much ground to be covered systematically by 10 people.

The amount of discretionary funds available to CUFOS has increased in the past two years, but while solvent, we must still watch costs closely. We had thought carefully about how many people to include on the trip and how much time to spend at the site, balancing cost against potential results. Our estimates that three days would be sufficient for a first reconnaissance turned out to be correct. We had decided that this first trip would be devoted more to learning about the site than actually searching for debris.

Following this plan, the various team members spent the first day photographing the area and marking the primary site with a square grid pattern 100 feet on a side (see Photo 1). We next walked the area systematically, looking for any likely areas where debris may have been concealed by soil deposition or vegetation. Several potentially interesting spots were marked, including one large yucca plant that may well have been there in 1947.

During the initial inspection, we found several sinkholes that might have collected stray debris. Sinkholes are caused by erosion of the underlying rock by rainwater. They are typically circular, from 10 to 30 yards in diameter, and about five to 10 feet in depth. According to local sources, even during heavy rains, standing water does not often collect in the sinkholes, but simply seeps through openings to lower levels. Water is precious on the high plains, and the nearest well on the ranch had to be drilled to a depth of 700 feet. The natural drainage patterns of the site run toward the many sinkholes.

The team was also advised to search carefully for any man-made debris on the site. Only one artifact was found, a rusted, large can which had been opened with a knife. It was sitting on the surface, and it was not possible to estimate how long it might have lain there. We found nothing else that would indicate that the military had visited the site in 1947. From Brazel's testimony, though, we do know that the military cleaned the area thoroughly before leaving, so the lack of debris is not surprising.

Before proceeding with an account of the work, I want to explain briefly why we believe that a search for debris is not a futile endeavor. For two months following the crash, Bill Brazel was on the ranch assisting his father. During this period he found several pieces of the object, scattered nearby but not buried. His descriptions of what he found are consistent with those of Jesse Marcel and Marcel's son, Jesse, Jr., who saw the debris when his father brought it to their house in Roswell the night of July 7. Unfortunately, when the military discovered two years later that Brazel had pieces of the object, officers confiscated everything. But the fact that Brazel found debris *after* the military left the site implies that more debris still exists on the site. And there is no evidence that the military ever closely searched the site again after July 1947.

Of course, it's one thing to deduce that there is still debris at the site, but another matter entirely to find it. One complication is that the debris was reported to be quite light. The winds in this part of New Mexico blow strongly for much of the year, and in 42 years the

Photo 1. *Setting up the measurement grid on the first day*

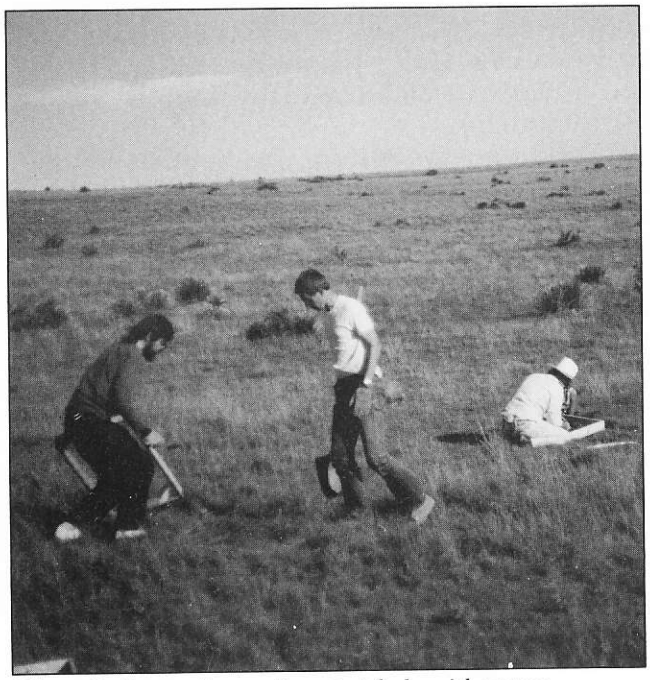

Photo 2. *Preparing to dig a test hole with screen*

Photo 3. *Conducting trowel test of soil*

remaining debris might have scattered widely. As we have joked privately, perhaps the Roswell expedition should have been based in west Texas instead!

Another consideration is how deeply the debris would have been buried in 42 years. Brazel found pieces on top of the ground, but that was only two months after the event. The military would surely have found all the large pieces (the largest piece Brazel had was only about four inches long), and their low mass means that runoff from a heavy rain might have moved a piece of debris an appreciable distance. A significant amount of soil erosion occurs because of heavy rains during thunderstorms, and even a piece buried under an inch of soil might be uncovered.

Given these uncertainties, we proceeded as follows. A careful inspection of the primary area (400 by 1500 feet) was made by teams walking in a line from one end to the other. We walked the site in various directions to look for preferential scattering of sunlight from any debris (though it is possible that dirt may cover the material now). The weather during the three days was favorable, with sunshine, low humidity, and few clouds. We found nothing (except the can), and roughly estimate that this method would have located any debris over one inch in size that lay on the surface. No one really expected to find anything this easily.

The second day at the site was spent digging test holes to various depths in a systematic pattern in the primary area near the gouge. Standard archeological screens were used with 1/4-inch screening. (See Photo 2.) The method consists of digging a hole, placing all shovelfuls in the screen, shaking the screen to remove the dirt, and examining the remaining contents. Anything above 1/4-inch in size will still be in the screen. A large number of rocks remained after sifting out the dirt at every spot, complicating examination of the screen's contents. About 200 test holes were dug in all. The process is inherently time-consuming, made even more so by the tough grasses and rocks.

We also dug in the spots we had marked the first day, including around the large yucca plant. Some of the digging was done with the shovel test method, without the use of a screen. Here, one person digs up a shovel or two of soil and spreads it out, and then a second person uses a trowel to separate the soil and look for anything unusual. Photo 3 depicts the work in progress.

A test hole to a depth of 46.5 centimeters was dug and the soil face sketched in detail. The soil at the site consists of brown, sandy loam. The amount of organic matter is low. Chalk deposits are evident at lower depths. Later in the day, another team member and I took shovels in hand and explored a sinkhole some distance from the point of initial impact. Here the soil was clearly affected by runoff during rainstorms, with more fine soil on the surface.

We had decided not to bring any sophisticated equipment into the field for this trip, though we did have a theodolite for survey work and a metal detector. A search with the metal detector discovered nothing of interest, but as the composition of the debris is unknown, the lack of results is not conclusive evidence of absence.

The last day at the site was spent with final measurements, a drive around the boundaries of the site, cleanup, and, most important, a close scrutiny of the location where Bill Brazel found the debris after the military had left. That spot, not far from the intial impact point, is relatively small in extent, so I and another team member were able to closely search for debris. We raked the area, dug around small clumps of grass, turned over some shovelfuls of dirt, and looked under large rocks (after first checking for rattlesnakes). Nothing unusual was discovered.

To facilitate future work, we marked the location of the prime reference point and the baseline of the grid that was constructed. After the cleanup, very little evidence remained of the expedition. Our agreement with the owner of the ranch stipulated that we disturb the site as little as possible. The team departed the site on September 18 at 5:00 p.m., with one vehicle in need of repair. The pickup truck had overheated and a radiator hose had to be replaced at a service station in Corona.

The work at the site was not the end of our activities in New Mexico. The next day at the Technology Applications Center, near the University of New Mexico, we obtained a list of all available aerial photographs of the area in which the site is located. The first was fortuitously taken in 1946. Copies of some of these photos will be ordered soon. Until now it was not possible to obtain photos because the site's location was not known with enough precision.

Though no pieces of debris were found, the expedition was generally a success. We have learned about the site and now know what additional information and equipment is needed to do a more complete job the next time. Plans are being made to contact experts in the ecology and geology of New Mexico. Information will be requested on soil erosion and deposition rates, the growth rates of yucca plants and other vegetation, the action of water in sinkholes, and the advancement or recession of vegetation across rocky soil. More interviews are also planned with Brazel and others to reconfirm certain points. While at the site, Schmitt and Randle located several more leads to persons who have never been interviewed. We also hope that someone on the military team that picked up the debris will come forward. That individual can help us locate probable spots where debris might remain.

The above list, though not complete, is an indication of the work remaining before the next trip to the site. As a courtesy to the ranch owner and out of a desire to protect the site, I have purposely not specified the exact location of the crash. The recent *Unsolved Mysteries*

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Radiative processes and the generation of UFO experiences

by Chris Rutkowski

■■ Chris Rutkowski, an *IUR* contributing editor and prominent figure in Canadian ufology, works as a curator at the University of Manitoba.

For over a decade speculation has run rampant regarding the possibility that UFOs may be linked to electromagnetic radiation produced by underground rock subjected to stresses. The most outspoken advocate of the Tectonic Stress Theory (TST) in North America is Michael Persinger of Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. In Europe a parallel theory has been advanced by Paul Devereux in Britain. Their supporters include John Derr, a geophysicist with the United States Geological Survey and an authority on earthquake lights, as well as Brian Brady, also with the USGS and involved in seismological studies.

The TST has two basic forms which are not mutually exclusive. Either the radiation causes the ionization of gases which in turn give rise to UFO reports, or the radiation directly acts upon the witnesses' brains (specifically the temporal lobe) and causes the distorted view of reality which is interpreted as a UFO experience. Obviously a combination of the two is possible.

Over the past few years proponents of the TST have produced numerous statistical studies which seem to show a relationship between UFO sightings and seismicity, implying proof of the TST's effects. But in carrying the TST to extremes, other phenomena have been linked, including psychic abilities and even cancer. Recently a major tremor in Quebec was linked to UFO sightings in Pennsylvania, hundreds of kilometers away, simply on the premise that the UFOs were observed around the time of the earthquake and hence were related. Seismologists, unversed in ufology, seemed to consider the link persuasive. Yet as ufologists are aware, less than one in 20 UFO cases is found to require an explanation beyond simple misidentifications of ordinary and conventional phenomena, without involving the TST at all. In other words, it is unlikely that an alleged UFO observed at the time of a seismic event, especially some distance away, is related to it in any way.

As for the other phenomena linked to geophysical effects, it has been suggested that precognition and other psychic effects such as poltergeists are enhanced during periods of local seismic activity. This inference has been made using the same statistical analyses employed to show a UFO connection. The relationship with cancer, however, was made without the benefit of empirical analyses. It was inferred by assuming that electromagnetic radiation really is emitted in areas prone to UFO flaps and noting that a local population would therefore be exposed to increased levels of radiation. Furthermore, UFO investigators working in the field would face an "occupational hazard" by being exposed to this radiation.

The critics of TST point to several problems with the theory. The most obvious one is that according to debunkers such as Philip J. Klass and Robert Sheaffer, *all* UFOs can be explained easily, without the large numbers of data on UFO sightings that TST proponents use to show their statistical results. Obviously the raw UFO data that are correlated with seismic events are nothing more than aircraft and stellar objects, according to this view, so the entire body of TST literature is worthless. Apart from being unsettling to TST proponents, this should be also of concern to others, since we should ask why the data seem to support TST through statistical analyses which yield high probabilities and neat graphic plots.

The data themselves are a problem, in that UFO (and, later, psychic-experience) reports from newspaper clippings, magazines and investigators' files are used as sources. But as Allan Hendry remarked in his *UFO Handbook* (1979), undifferentiated UFO reports cannot be used in statistical analyses. As a case in point, Ufology Research in Manitoba has been conducting an ongoing reexamination of its over 700 UFO reports for the province. Of these only a few *dozen* are high-reliability unknowns, and even some of these show signs of solutions after limited but intense investigations. If the entire 700 cases were statistically analyzed, would the results be meaningful, if they were mostly misidentifications?

Certainly one of the most important problems with TST is the lack of a mechanism. Up until this past year none of the TST studies ever addressed the way in which the radiation underground could produce UFOs either in the air or in the minds of the witnesses. Since the statistical studies are inadequate to support TST, such a mechanism is necessary before TST can be realistically considered as an explanation for UFOs, especially since

other explanations are available and do not require new scientific principles.

With debate raging with regard to abductees and contactees, TST has also been entered into the fray. Whitley Strieber, Budd Hopkins and others prefer the nuts-and-bolts scenario of extraterrestrial intervention while Ann Druffel and D. Scott Rogo postulate "ultra-terrestrial" intervention as sketched earlier by John A. Keel. Still others such as John Musgrave and various skeptics hold that the abductees are merely recalling unusually vivid nightmares. Rima Laibow has noted parallels between abductees and child-abuse victims, while Druffel and Rogo have speculated that abductees transfer emotional stresses into abduction fantasies. TST proponents have attempted to link all of these suggestions by observing that temporal-lobe effects can include the induction of analtered state of reality in which false "memories" of an abduction can be produced.

But the simple statement that abduction fantasies can be produced by the action of electromagnetic effects must be supported by empirical studies. Why should exposure to electromagnetic fields generate such specific images? And we need also to ask the quantitative question: are these electromagnetic fields really produced by TST effects?

Since the TST debate cannot be resolved by statistical studies and presentation of opinions, another track must be explored.

UFOs and your microwave oven

Are we affected by low-level radiation? As if ufology needed another debate, this is another question without an easy answer. Investigative journalist Paul Brodeur has written an alarming book, *The Zapping of America* (1977), in which he exposes the dangers of man-made radiation we face every day of our lives — not only from our ovens but from innocuous sources such as television transmitters, airport radar and even garage-door openers. Certainly, biological effects from these sources have been noted, including some deaths. The increased incidence of cancer among radar technicians is evidence that physiological effects from EM radiation are not insignificant.

A famous case of induced EM effects concerns the radiating of the American embassy in Moscow. Staff in that building were reporting headaches, dizziness and nausea, and in the course of a surveillance sweep it was found that microwave transmitters across the street were directed at the embassy. But American officials downplayed the dangers, saying that other factors were likely the cause. It turned out that microwaves were being aimed at the building but at a level considered safe by American standards.

Studies on the effects of such low-level radiation have been inconclusive and it could not be "officially" stated that the microwaves were a threat to embassy personnel. In fact, those of us who live in high-level apartment buildings at eye level to TV transmitters are routinely radiated with more microwave energy than the embassy staff. As another example, crewmen on naval surveillance vessels are rarely allowed on deck because such ships are frequently "painted" with radiation from the radars on the ships they are spying on, in order to "burn out" the surveillance equipment.

So is there a hazard? Yes, if you were to be deliberately and intensely exposed to EM radiation. That is why there are recommended limits to X-ray exposure from medical tests. Similarly, there are limits to "safe" high-altitude flights for pilots who would be otherwise exposed to cosmic rays. But the level of radiation from our common microwave oven is carefully regulated, and although the amount of exposure from such sources is not zero, it is negligible when compared with other sources.

When a wave of UFO sightings erupted near Carman, Manitoba, in the 1970s, investigators were puzzled as to why the UFOs were seen only in specific areas. Theories ranged from alien invasion to publicity stunts. Some observers noted that the UFOs were seen often around the "towers." These structures were most often microwave-relay stations, although some were radio masts; one researcher, Grant Cameron, found some consistency in reports of UFOs flying "between" the towers. This observation was noted and filed without much consideration, although it was brought out again a few years later, when there was a series of UFO sightings near the town of Sundown, 100 or so kilometers away. This time there were no microwave towers near the town, and no obvious reason why UFOs would have chosen that location. On a hunch, however, I obtained a map of microwave circuits in that part of the province and was pleasantly surprised to find that a circuit passed directly over the sites of several observations of UFOs. Was this a coincidence or were the UFO reports related to microwaves?

TST proponents would of course say "Yes!" and proclaim victory, but the connection is not so simple. Why would the circuit cause UFO reports there and at that specific time? Here, the extraterrestrial hypothesis has a more obvious solution, by having the aliens interested in the microwaves, instead of the other way around. But in the former case the question still remains: how can EM radiation produce the effects?

In the field and under the wire

In these days of environmental concerns many hazards are being found in things not often considered dangerous. Although we live near power-transmission lines, few of us are concerned about the radiation leaking from them. Yet numerous environmental studies have been conducted upon the biological effects of electric and magnetic fields, and particularly those associated with transmission lines. Naturally this is of concern to those living near new power corridors, but we can get a feel for

the complexity of the subject by determining the power levels experienced near them.

For example, a 700 kV line will leak an average of 6 kV/m underneath it. What do these numbers mean? In comparison the fields near typical appliances are a few orders of magnitude less than this but still not insignificant. Your electric blanket has a field of a few hundred volts per meter (about 0.25 kV/m), your stereo has about 100, and your TV perhaps 30, and a typical light bulb gives off a field of 2 V/m. These are for electric fields. Magnetic fields are of less concern for transmission lines and are much stronger around appliances. Fields of several hundred microTeslas are common around soldering guns, hand massagers and fluorescent lights, while the fields under transmission lines are of the order of only a few microTeslas. In other words, the leakage from transmission lines is only an order of magnitude more than that from typical domestic appliances. But this does *not* mean that there is absolutely no danger from transmission lines, since other factors such as the duration spent near the lines and drops in efficiency of the lines play an important part in the exposure.

An important book on the subject is *Biological Effects of Transmission Line Fields* (1987) by Edwin L. Carstensen. He has surveyed the literature on EM effects and has not found support for all proposed biological consequences. Many studies show some effects but at intensities greater than those experienced in everyday life. For example, at field strengths comparable to those underneath transmission lines, changes in the activities of bees have been noted. Also the perception of hair movement ("on the back of your neck") by human subjects has been confirmed. Many of the effects claimed by researchers could not be confirmed and there were usually no mechanisms offered to explain the effects. Among these experiments were those performed by TST proponent Michael Persinger, who described various behavioral changes in small mammals with exposure to magnetic fields. (Carstensen remarks, "Although the authors [Persinger and another researcher named Paar] discuss effects on behavior, it is difficult to see consistent differences between control and exposed groups in the reported data.")

Most studies on biological effects were performed upon nonhuman organisms, although a few attempted to see how effects were translated to human exposure. Many factors could influence and alter extrapolations to human beings, so the specific results of a test on rats, for example, cannot be compared easily to people. Yet we know that some effects in humans are probable.

Recently Persinger has suggested that UFOs may be related to cancer, based on geographical considerations and the theory that seismic radiation affects human beings. To support his assertion, he cites studies which seem to have established relationships between EM fields and high cancer incidence. But when Carstensen reviewed these same studies, he declared them well short of definitive proof and dependent on other variables.

Still, the problem of physical mechanisms remains. After examining the possible physiological mechanisms that might give rise to effects in biological tissue, Carstensen concluded that fields more than 1000 times the maximum strength detected under power lines would be required to produce the effects. Field strengths of about 1000 kV/m would be needed for physiological changes. But if a sensitive electrochemical mechanism is affected (i.e., the temporal lobe), it is possible that lower field strengths could produce some change.

Herein lies the next challenge of TST: not to produce more statistical studies which can never constitute proof of an effect but to quantify the energy constraints. And it is reassuring to see that this is finally being done to a limited extent. Not long ago Persinger produced a paper in which some values for EM frequencies were given, suggesting rigorous studies on brain stimulation. This is encouraging but it is only a start in the right direction.

What is further needed is an assessment of the energy available from underground rock strain. Is this in any way comparable with other sources of radiation to which we are exposed in everyday life? One of the more interesting objections to TST is that while it postulates physiological effects from strain-induced radiation, it doesn't say very much about *other* sources of radiation. As noted earlier, certainly radio transmissions, radar and microwaves must act upon us in a similar fashion as suggested by TST. It seems logical that in seismically-inactive areas, where TST is still claimed responsible for UFO experiences according to its authors, the effects of these other radiation sources would be much stronger than seismic radiation, at least under some circumstances.

This would be true, of course, with all the effects claimed for TST. It is in fact much easier to understand abduction experiences, for example, as temporal-lobe effects due to microwave-relay radiation than as stress radiation from rock strain, especially since the latter may not exist at all. This might be the circumstance for claims by an abductee living on the 15th floor of an apartment building in a seismically-quiet part of the country. Rather than come up with novel ways of getting strain energy to that abductee, it might be better to explore sources of environmental radiation from conventional sources. (This is not to say that I endorse this view of abductions; I'm merely presenting this suggestion as a thought exercise.)

Even if UFO experiences were due to an energy influx upon the brain, TST would still be pressed to come up with a reason why the temporal lobe would cause such specific "memories" as UFO abductions and religious visions. Persinger has shown that amnesia can be induced under certain conditions in the laboratory, but could this occur in nature? And Carstensen classified Persinger's findings on this matter as "unconfirmed" for various reasons. The suggestion that strain energy can

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Daylight dumbbell

by Richard F. Haines

Richard F. Haines, Ph.D., an *IUR* contributing editor, is an aviation psychologist who works for NASA. He is the author of *Observing UFOs* (1980) and *Melbourne Episode* (1987) and editor of *UFO Phenomena and the Behavioral Scientist* (1979).

On Saturday, April 15, 1989, at 5:30 p.m., M.H., 46, and his son Kevin, 16, were sitting in the family van parked outside their home in Novato, California, when something in the clear blue sky caught their attention. They looked up and saw a "strange object" hanging motionless in the sky.

As they both got out of the vehicle, they realized that it was not moving. It looked like "two spheres connected together by a stem." As the father ran back inside his house to get his 7x35 binoculars, his son continued to keep it in view. The object did not move fast but did seem to descend slowly as M.H. watched it through the binoculars.

The two spheres were three-dimensional, possessing shadows consistent with the solar illumination. They were golden in color with a whitish "aura" or halo around them. No flame was seen coming from the object but M.H. sensed that something was emitted from the dumbbell object. He saw no markings or other surface texture on the spheres.

This is the account we had already heard from the report M.H. mailed to CUFOS when on the afternoon of May 26 Carl Lunsford and I visited the site to conduct an interview with the two witnesses. We obtained taped narratives of what each witness had seen and we then asked M.H. questions from the CUFOS Investigator Form. We also asked questions regarding the observers' sighting and vision, inspected the 8x30 TASCO Model 308 binoculars which were used, recreated the sighting event and requested both witnesses to redraw what they had seen.

The main details of this sighting are the same as related in the above synopsis. In addition, we learned that the object remained in the eastern sky, did change directions (as it departed toward the east it seemed to turn 90 degrees abruptly into a horizontal flight path), appeared solid with a discernible outline, and reflected light.

Both witnesses recalled seeing a number of small golden spheres somehow associated with this main object. M.H. could see them only through the binoculars and sketched them as pale gold spheres. Kevin said he could see them with his naked eyes and drew four of them as small flat discs.

M.H. wears prescription plastic lens eyeglasses with a slight astigmatic correction of about 0.5d in his left eye and no astigmatism in his left eye. Both of his eyes have a spherical correction of about +0.5d for incipient presbyopia. The lenses are UV coated. When I had him readjust the binocular eyepieces for infinity focus, he set both to -5.5d. He said he was 20:20 corrected.

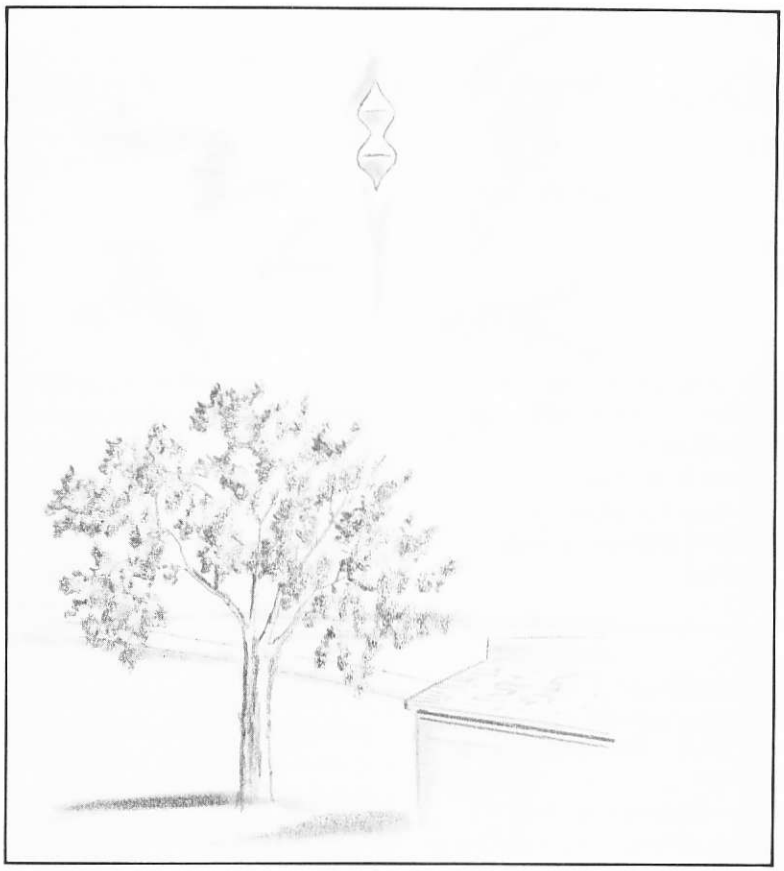
The TASCO Model 308 binoculars were 8x30 power with coated 1.2-inch-diameter objectives and 0.70-inch-diameter pupils. Stamped on the body of the binoculars were these figures: "393 ft at 1000 yds" and "131M/1000M." We found the optics to be free from any defects or internal flaws which would produce an optical image such as was reported.

We all walked to the same spot where the two witnesses had stood. This site was located about 300 feet north of the intersection of Inyo Circle and Crossroads Court in Novato.

Looking initially at a steep angle upward (approximately 75 degrees above the horizon), both witnesses saw what appeared to be two spheres, one above the other and immovable relative to each other, i.e., they both moved together.

From sketches M.H. drew, it was learned that the apparent angular size of the dumbbell was just less than the apparent width of M.H.'s thumbnail (at arm's length) or about 1.5 degrees. The two equal-diameter spheres were separated by about 0.25 times the diameter of each sphere and the connecting rod was about 10 to 15 percent of the sphere's diameter.

Kevin also drew two sketches of what he saw, one as viewed without binoculars, the other with. He tried to draw their sizes taking the optical magnification into account. In addition, he added four smaller objects at their initial positions relative to the main object in the second drawing. These smaller objects all appeared to approach the main object along straight lines at irregular intervals. The two lowermost discs approached the lower bulb on the object while the two uppermost discs approached the upper bulb. It isn't clear whether they merged with it or suddenly disappeared. Both witnesses



were vague about the dynamics of these smaller objects. Seen initially at about 75 degrees' arc above the eastern horizon, the object began to descend slowly to a minimum of 60 degrees' arc. While it was at its lower positions, both witnesses saw from five to eight small gold-colored "satellites" come out of the object in approximately the same elliptical orbit. They emerged at irregular intervals and always reentered the object along a more or less horizontal plane.

M.H. also noted the strange absence of kids and dogs at the time they watched the object. There are usually many present at this time of day.

The two connected spheres were described as being a rigid object at all times. The dumbbell did not tilt or wobble at any time. It always remained vertically-oriented.

M.H. was positive that the object was not a balloon. While the wind was calm, he stated that there was no horizontal motion at any time. The object disappeared by rising slowly vertically (estimated at one degree of arc per minute) and slightly toward the east until it appeared as a point and then it veered sharply to the left (i.e., to the southwest) and accelerated obliquely until it was out of sight. M.H. estimated its height as 30,000 feet.

He said there was nothing in the newspapers after the event, nor did he hear anyone else talking about the object. "It was strange," he said, "there was no one else who saw it.... It was very quiet at the time." No sound was ever heard coming from the direction of the object.

We asked the witnesses each to make a rough sketch of the field of view present during the sight. This included the foreground lawn, a small tree and the object. From this we hoped to be able to establish the vertical angles. A comparison of their two sketches indicated the following:

The ratio between the vertical angle from the local horizon to the top of the tree and the vertical angle between the local horizon to the UFO for each witness is A/B = 0.27 for M.H. and A/B = 0.16 for Kevin. This different is small, indicating reasonably good agreement between the two witnesses, particularly when we consider that there were no fixed references in the sky against which to compare the location of the UFO at any time.

The weather on the day in question was clear and sunny, according to meteorological records. The temperatures were in the mid-70s. Winds were variable from the northwest from five to 15 kts. As M.H. subjectively recalled it, the temperature was 75 degrees F., the wind was coming from the west at five to seven mph. Visibility was clear and ceiling unlimited.

Hamilton Air Force Base is located nearby but has been officially closed for years. There is no aviation activity there, according to M.H. At Travis AFB, 28 miles to the east-northeast, numerous heavy transport aircraft land daily.

I found both witnesses to be forthright and clear in

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The trouble with UNICAT — part two

by Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht

■■ Paul Fuller, council member of the British UFO Research Association, is a professional statistician. Wim van Utrecht directs the Belgium Studiegroep voor Vreemde Luchtverschijnselen (Group for Study of Strange Aerial Phenomena) and edits *SVL Newsletter* and *SVL Report*.

In this section we wish to discuss the problem of choosing, defining and coding relevant variables (parameters) which we can use to identify statistically significant differences between cases. This, of course, is the whole point of creating a database like UNICAT because we wish to identify statistical clues to the nature of unexplained UFO data by comparing different *types* of UFO events across a whole range of relevant information.

Unfortunately, it is not easy to know which variables should be recorded in UNICAT because we do not know what our unexplained cases represent. For this reason we suspect that Willy Smith has correctly decided to code as many variables as possible, in the hope that the irrelevant variables will become obvious and will be discarded. This policy seems reasonable but it runs a grave risk of over-parameterisation for the rarer UFO events. (Multivariate statistical tests cannot be applied to datasets when the number of cases is lower than the number of variables, e.g., we could not use more than four variables in any statistical model tested on five radar cases.)

We have already pointed out that the UNICAT variables seem to make assumptions about the sorts of explanations that will eventually account for unexplained UFO data. We also draw attention to the following important issues:

(a) The reliance of the database on subjective, ordinal or nominal variables

Of the 225 variables contained in the UNICAT database we believe that fewer than 40 (18 percent) are *objectively defined variables*, i.e., variables in which there can be no possibility of ambiguity or miscoding (e.g., the sex of a witness, the year of a sighting, the location of a sighting). Examples of objective UNICAT variables include Children's Accounts (CA), Denied by Airport (DA), and Hypnosis (HY). Of course, most of these objective variables say nothing of the characteristics of the UFO event; they merely refer to chance characteristics of the sighting or the follow-up investigation (e.g., Never Saw Anything Like It [NS], Drawing of Entity Exists [DE]).

Since very few of the objective UNICAT variables refer to characteristics of the reported event, some degree of *judgment* is required before the case details are entered into the UNICAT database. The reliance of UNICAT on subjective variables such as Complex Case (CX), Intelligent Answer (IA), and Curiosity Exhibited (CE) greatly reduces the utility of UNICAT to identify statistically-significant differences between cases because the accuracy of these variables depends wholly upon the judgment of the witness, the ability of the investigator, and the reliability of the UNICAT coders to record identical characteristics in a consistent manner.

It is our belief that we cannot be sure of the accuracy of many of the UNICAT variables and so, for these reasons, critics can always argue that any statistically-significant variations discovered in the database simply reflect variations in the value judgments of the witnesses, the investigators or the UNICAT coders rather than real statistical differences between unexplained cases. Of course, were UNICAT to concentrate on recording the more objective variables (such as age, occupation, IQ), this charge would be less supportable.

To test this criticism we suggest that the UNICAT Project send a dozen of its "full case reports" (chosen by the use of random-number tables) to independently located researchers who are not connected with us or the UNICAT Project. Each researcher should independently attempt to code each case using the UNICAT variables to see if a consensus is achievable. We maintain that different researchers will code individual cases in different ways because most of the UNICAT variables are so subjectively defined.

Perhaps UNICAT's biggest single mistake has been to code virtually all its 225 "repeatable characteristics" as nominal (present/absent) measures — the lowest form of measurement — instead of using ordinal, ratio or interval measures (which are often more appropriate). Examples of this oversimplification include Electromagnetic Effects (EM), which could have contained several similar effects (e.g., Static on Radio, Headlights Dimmed, Engine Stut-

tered but not Stalled, Engine Failed); Lonely Road or Place (LR) should really be some measure of population density or the distance to the nearest hamlet or town; and Entities Plural (EP) which should have been coded as the *Number* of Entities rather than Yes There was More Than One Entity.

This greatly reduces the ability of the database to identify statistically significant differences because the reliance upon nominal measures means that UNICAT can apply only nonparametric tests to UNICAT data. This is a major disadvantage because:

- In general, nonparametric statistical tests require appreciably higher sample sizes to identify the *same* variations as parametric tests (which are based on higher levels of measurement);
- Some categories of UFO reports are rare (e.g., radar-detection cases). The combination of low sample sizes and nonparametric hypothesis testing further reduces the possibility of identifying statistically significant differences. The use of parametric testing is not such a problem with low sample sizes;
- The reliance on nominal measurements and nonparametric statistics greatly restricts the *range* of available statistical tests that can be applied to UNICAT data (e.g., there are no nonparametric equivalents of cluster analysis or principle components analysis);

(b) The extensive use of variables within the database

Because UNICAT is composed almost entirely of nominal measures, there is extensive duplication of the variables which reduces the 225 variables to only 170 or so. We cannot be accurate about the full extent of this problem because precise definitions of the variables have not been published (indeed, *no* complete technical description of the project seems to have been published or made available to ufologists in its five years of existence). We cannot understand why the project has been promoting its collection of 225 variables when such obvious duplication is occurring.

(c) The omission of crucial variables

We are concerned that UNICAT lacks witness-related variables such as age, sex, marital status. Occupation, IQ level, social class, and so on could be used to demonstrate whether or not *witnesses* to unexplained cases differed significantly from witnesses to explained cases and from populations in general. One of UNICAT's primary aims must be to examine whether a typical witness profile for (different) sub classes of cases can be established.

Following on from this, we were disappointed at the omission of variables recording specific meteorological conditions such as precipitation, snow, hail and high winds (although more general variables such as Clear Weather [CW], Mist, haze, vapor [MI], Weather Other [WO] and Extreme Weather Conditions [WX] are recorded). Surely if anomalous phenomena are appearing in the atmosphere we should expect some of those anomalous phenomena to be meteorological in origin (e.g., ball lightning).

We applaud the use of Hynek's strangeness-credibility scale and the attempt to measure investigative quality. But we also wonder whether it would be productive to record the delay between the *sighting* and the *investigation* to examine whether case quality, credibility and strangeness vary with investigative delay.

(5) The decision to count cases instead of reports

Currently, the UNICAT database counts each case as a single record in the database. We recognize that this is a complex issue with no straightforward answers, but we criticize UNICAT's policy because:

- At present we cannot examine variations in the degree of conflicting witness testimony between different types of cases because at present all the witnesses' reports are compressed into a single (nominal) code for each case. Surely ufologists should be examining variations in the degree of *internal consistency* between different sub groups of cases to see if witnesses agree or disagree on the basic reported events. For example, if 95 percent of witnesses to car-stop cases agree on all the basic reported details, but only 50 percent of witnesses to cases involving entities completely agree, does this not suggest that the latter case would be less objective than the former?
- At present UNICAT cannot examine the order of events during cases. Surely we wish to establish (for example) whether a high proportion of car-stop cases really do follow the stereotype car-stop model, or whether the accepted order (UFO appears, headlights dim, static on radio, engine dies) is just a myth.
- Surely ufologists pray for good multiple-witness cases because these (allegedly) greatly reduce the possibility of misperception by the witnesses. If this is so, why are multiple cases given the same weighting as single-witness cases? Surely a case

in which five persons report seeing an unexplained phenomenon should be counted five times in the database (because it is five times more important than a single-witness case).

- We note with approval that Smith distinguishes between Multiple Witness (MW) cases when the witnesses are grouped together and Multiple Witness cases where some witnesses are Independently Located (IW). This allows us to identify whether or not the *clustering* of multiple witnesses together increases or decreases the caliber of cases (i.e., do excited witnesses contaminate each other's stories or do witnesses stick to their version of events despite noticeable differences?). Significant differences here would (again) indicate that in some way (some) reported events rely upon the circumstances of the observer rather than real differences between the events.

- By counting *reports* instead of *cases*, sample sizes would be significantly boosted for the rarer categories of event (thus making for more confident statistical inferences).

Again our criticism is not so much that UNICAT records cases instead of reports, but that Smith has not discussed these issues and the important implications of his decision in the literature. We acknowledge that by recording reports instead of cases the amount of coding required would increase substantially and that some means of flagging separate records to indicate that they belong to the same cases will be required. It might also be necessary to redesign UNICAT into a nonflat database. (A flat database is one in which cases are restricted to a single value for each variable. A nonflat database could record all the witnesses' ages [or all the reported colors] with repeat group structures to allow us to examine the order of reported events within individual cases. Unfortunately this makes for more difficult interrogation techniques.)

The reliance of the UNICAT Project on the use of a single coder

In 1953, when the Battelle Memorial Institute carried out the research that led to Project Blue Book Special Report #14 two years later, the project team employed a complex method of classifying, coding, and checking cases which greatly reduced the possibility of miscoding or misevaluating individual cases. This involved using a single Battelle worker and an evaluation panel which would independently examine a case prior to reaching a decision about the case and its merits. Only if both the Battelle worker and the evaluation panel agreed would the case be submitted for further analysis and the evaluation adopted.

The UNICAT Project seems to rely wholly upon one coder (Smith), whose expertise by necessity must cover a wide range of unrelated subjects (meteorology, astronomy, psychology, military technology and more.) Despite his academic credentials, we do not always agree with Smith's opinions about individual cases. What we challenge is the strain on his knowledge of so many disparate fields and the fact that any potential errors will go uncorrected and would consistently affect the entire database.

The lack of statistical expertise and guidance

Many of the problems with UNICAT stem from the lack of a statistician to advise on the project's design and methodology. Regretfully, the project director's own statistical expertise leaves much to be desired. His application of the chi-squared test on a contingency table where cases have been double counted and his abuse of existing statistical terminology (e.g., "parameter correlations") illustrate our point.

Summary

We have tried hard to be constructive in our examination of the UNICAT Project, but in short, we do not feel confident that the project is soundly based upon standard statistical methodology. Although many of our criticisms could be better aimed at ufology's lack of progress in general, rather than UNICAT's specific failings, we have not met with the confidence of UNICAT's director when raising these issues and we acknowledge that our comments may on occasion be based upon misunderstandings, for which we apologize in advance.

We have not set out to prove that the statistical treatment of UFO data is a pointless pursuit, or to give the impression that the UNICAT Project has no intrinsic value to ufology. We do maintain, however, that the statistical analysis of UFO data involves the use of many assumptions and techniques with which the UNICAT Project failed to deal. We look forward to further constructive debate on these important, challenging issues. ■

(c) Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht

Coming in *IUR*...

The Roswell incident —
the full story of the most important event in UFO history

Letters

Gulf Breeze photos

To the editor:

Wim van Utrecht ("How to Take Your Own Gulf Breeze Photos," *IUR*, May/June) makes a good, honest effort to replicate the type of UFO I photographed. But the difficulty with the reflection-off-glass theory he proposes can be expressed this way: How do you set up the glass, hang the model, and all the rest, and shoot the picture if you are in the limited confines of the cab of a pick-up truck (as I was when I took the road shot)?

Consider the many different locations of my photographs. None shows a scene through any window. Even if you set up a model and a piece of glass at, say, a shoreline location, how do you hide the staging props as others run to the area within seconds of seeing the flash of the SRS camera?

But most damaging to the reflection theory is this: How can you explain the flash's not reflecting off the glass? Plus, the SRS stereo camera clearly shows the same type of UFO and complicates the hoax theory beyond reason.

Ed Walters
Gulf Breeze, Florida

To the editor:

In your editorial in *IUR*, July/August, you state that the Gulf Breeze case must remain open in the "absence of solid disconfirming evidence," implying that such evidence does not exist. This is not true.

The UNICAT Project has obtained computer-enhanced images of some of Mr. Walters' photographs. These clearly show the presence of a support under the alleged UFO. We have been legally prevented from publishing those results — which would end the controversy — on the grounds that the original photos are copyrighted, but we hope to overcome this difficulty in the near future.

In addition, computer analysis of the anomalous image appearing in the so-called ghost photo has shown beyond the shadow of a doubt that it was obtained by double exposure, and hence that the photographer was familiar with the technique months before the first alleged UFO incident. The only better "disconfirming evidence" I could think of would be a signed confession from the photographer.

Willy Smith, Ph.D.
UNICAT Project
Longwood, Florida

Fantasy, abuse and abduction

To the editor:

We read with interest the article by Rima E. Laibow ("Dual Victims: The Abused and the Abducted," *IUR*, May/June). In it Dr. Laibow stated that a higher incidence of child abuse occurs among abductees when compared to the general population.

We concur with Laibow's observations and note the possible relationship between fantasy-prone personalities and child abuse. In "Abductions: The Fantasy-Prone-Personality Hypothesis" (*IUR*, May/June 1988) we also noted the apparent correlation between being an abductee and having a history of child abuse. We also mentioned that the correlation exists between abuse as a child and possession of a fantasy-prone personality. The implication in the latter instance, as with generation of multiple personality due to some traumatic experience (child abuse, for example), is that unusual mental states may be generated following abuse as a child.

We encourage UFO researchers and health professionals to examine the potential links connecting abuse as a child, abductions and fantasy-prone personality. We recommend the article by S. J. Lynn and J. W. Rhue, "Fantasy-Proneness: Developmental Antecedents," *Journal of Personality* 55(1) (1987).

Keith Basterfield and Robert E. Bartholomew
Australia

Disinforming

To the editor:

The primary objective of both military and civilian intelligence is to gather information on a variety of subjects from whatever sources are available. The

counterintelligence aspect of all this is to obstruct a foreign (or even merely unofficial) agency in its ability to do the same.

The UFO community is vulnerable to counterintelligence efforts to protect classified UFO data. The strange mixture of UFO fact and fiction emanating from such sources is typically either swallowed whole or dismissed in its entirety. In either case confusion is the result.

This past July, in an address to the MUFON Symposium in Las Vegas, researcher William L. Moore dealt a blow to UFO disinformation. He demonstrated that the current UFO rumors are hardly random; they have a source and a purpose. Instead of ignoring anonymous information, we must check it carefully to see if it conforms to checkable facts. By that I do not mean to say that because more than one source is spreading the same rumor, therefore it must be true. Some supposed leaks may be significant but they can also be cloaked in disinformation.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations acts as a watchdog over certain classified government information and it engages in counterintelligence activities. AFOSI regulation 124-88 states the following:

"A major concern in leak cases is to avoid lending credence to the compromised material. Often the greatest harm comes from confirming that the U.S. has certain intelligence, technologies, or policies. In the absence of official confirmation, publicized material can be damaging but must still be classed as speculation. Sometimes, the very existence of an official investigation provides confirmation. This problem may be a determining factor in deciding whether an investigation should be undertaken."

Consider the significance of these words in the context of the MJ-12 documents and other so-far-unconfirmed "leaks" involving alleged UFO secrets. One might conclude that the professionals who guard the secrets are doing their job. It is up to us to do ours.

Brian Parks
Torrance, California

DISinformed

To the editor:

Where in the world did George Eberhart ever get the idea that I have ever "worked as an agent for the Defense Investigative Service" ("The Current Literature," *IUR*, July/August)? I must ask that you correct the record to reflect the facts as they are and not as someone would like them to be. Fact is that I am not now, nor have I ever been, connected with the DIS, although it is possible that some of the information I supplied to AFOSI ended up in its files. *If* this occurred, responsibility for it would lie with OSI and not with me.

Perhaps Eberhart should reread the text of my Las Vegas presentation so that he can be absolutely certain of precisely what I did and did not say so that he can avoid making similar errors in the future. I have always respected him and his work and so was rather surprised (to say the least) when I read his *IUR* piece.

William L. Moore
Burbank, California

Encounter types

To the editor:

The Fund for UFO Research, Inc., is looking for an individual to conduct a study of UFO-sighting trends during the past decade, using the Hynek system of categorization (i.e., CE1, CE2 and so on). Interested persons should contact the Fund, giving their educational and technical qualifications, sources of data, and predicted time and costs of the study.

Don Berliner
Fund for UFO Research, Inc.
Box 277
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Conspiracy crowd

To the editor:

I want to express both agreement and disagreement with your editorial "Flying Saucer Fascism" (*IUR*, July/August).

I strongly agree with your criticism of the regrettable piece published in another UFO journal. It carried paranoia to an extreme and carried (to my mind as well as yours) elements of implicit anti-Semitism. I hope the editor in question shows better judgment in the future. I also endorse your criticism of the practices of some UFO debunkers who persist in ad hominem attacks and never let the facts get in the way of a good debunking.

I take issue, though, with your unqualified dismissal of all claims made by Lear, Cooper, et al. I agree that they have not provided substantiation for their claims and I in no way endorse any extreme allegation that lacks proof. I do feel, however, that there are indications that not all of their claims are without merit and a number deserve further consideration. I'll cite a few examples.

Anyone who thinks that a theory viewing the assassination of President Kennedy as a covert operation is ludicrous should read David Lifton's voluminous 1980 book *Best Evidence*. I was initially skeptical but find the

evidence Lifton cites persuasive. Lifton makes an impressive case that the President's body was altered with Secret Service and Navy complicity to implicate Lee Oswald and hide evidence of the true assassin. He concludes that the assassination was a covert operation ordered at the highest levels of the executive branch. This is compatible with the Lear/Cooper scenario.

I must also say that I am uneasy with the National Security Agency's response to Sgt. Clifford Stone's efforts to authenticate the Snowbird document. If these allegations are so absurd, why has the NSA taken him so seriously? Why has it sought to prevent him from contacting members of Congress and the media? Why has it refused to answer his inquiries, claiming they involve sensitive national security matters inappropriate for discussion? And what is a satisfactory explanation for the Cash-Landrum incident, if all these allegations are nonsense?

It's worth remembering that years ago all serious ufologists scoffed at reports of crashed discs and alien abductions as unworthy of investigation. Some still hold that view, but an increasing number have changed their minds about these bizarre reports as the supporting evidence has mounted.

Dan Pinchas
Gaithersburg, Maryland

To the editor:

I have to commend you on your editorial in the July/August issue. What you said needed saying and could not have been said more eloquently. I have been waiting (impatiently) for someone to stand up to the conspiracy crowd for months and am glad that you did not just let it pass, as some would rather do.

I find myself not only agreeing with but animatedly cheering your editorial comments every issue.

Jerold R. Johnson
Austin, Texas

To the editor:

You deserve a standing ovation for your editorial on "Flying Saucer Fascism." It's truly a shame that more of those who should know better are not showing some backbone and taking these fools to task loudly and publicly.

It's even more of a pity that newcomers to this field — trying to cope with 42 years' worth of data which are at least grounded in fact or something approaching consensus reality — also have to contend with this drivel. And what of those supposedly experienced and intelligent researchers who go to amazing lengths to implicate everyone from John Foster Dulles to Howard Hughes in the grand web of conspiracy?

My prayer for the '90s is: Lord save those who seek the truth in something resembling a reasonable fashion, and deliver us from all the rest. Keep calling it the way you see it.

Mark Packo
Stratford, Connecticut

The disunited states of ufology

To the editor:

I was saddened to see the badly-needed debate initiated in the March/April issue of *IUR* presented as "UFO Wars." The wrong tone: we are all simply trying to understand the baffling UFO enigma, surely?

Even more depressing was Jerome Clark's article "Two Cheers for American Ufology." After admitting that "most American ufologists" are ignorant of much ufological thinking, he goes on to ignore the implications of that and to be personal toward me and others. If he had talked with me as he had with Budd Hopkins, he would have discovered that I was not at all "overwrought" in making my comments (I would, however, have accepted the description "exasperated"). On the other hand, many people who noted the tone of Stanton Friedman's attack on me at the 1983 BUFORA Congress in London would agree, I think, that the term "overwrought" could have been applied accurately to him in that instance. It cuts both ways.

Clark may judge some of my comments (which he never dealt with) to be "self-serving nonsense," but doubtless our metaphysical visitor to Salem would have been similarly castigated by the inhabitants, unable to get outside their own collective mindset. Talking with just one New York psychologist, I discovered she had clients who are convinced that their husbands are ETs or are acting out potentially dangerous commands they feel they are receiving from ETs. Clark may not consider this hysteria. I do and so did that psychologist.

Hopkins' abduction interpretation of, say, the "Kathy Davis" case may be perfectly correct. What I am saying is that the facts as he describes them also fit perfectly, in every detail, the other explanation I suggested in my letter. Hopkins' refusal even to consider that in *Intruders* tells me that there is a need-system for the ET/abduction answer. And if many American ufologists do not know of other possibilities in any depth, how can their conclusions be fully objective?

No one is saying, as Clark implies, that a 40-year-old case is invalidated by its age; but he does not deal with the implications of that vintage. (Think, for example, of how many people would have had to be involved in the

hush-up, at how many levels from military guards to scientific teams to government officials — and we would now be coming up to the third generation of such keepers of the secret.) The USA certainly has an excellent Freedom of Information law, but even with that everything is still very elusive, isn't it? That in fact makes it all the more suspicious. I have some sympathy with the anonymous British ufologist who wanted to see wreckage and bodies, for evidence of government secrecy is *not* the same as demonstrating an ET case. There's nothing mysterious about government secrecy — just come to Britain to find that out!

The ETH may be correct, but is the study, the history, the *memory* of that explanation really considered by the current crop of abduction researchers? Clark dabbles but doesn't come to grips with the implications. Each round of the ETH is dealt with as if by amnesiacs. Where, for example, are the ski-suited Venusians now? It is all right being now oh-so-superior about contactees, as Clark is, but what will the abduction theme look like in 25 years? If one goes into the 40-year history of the ETH, themes come and go and they all looked valid to researchers at their times, but flaky later. If we look at it in perspective, it does not *appear* as if we are dealing with a physical ET situation. Considering how readily many American commentators who bother at all slap down the earthlights approach, I think it is strange that skeptical consideration of the ETH as a phenomenon in its own right is so muted.

If Michael Persinger's magnetic helmet really does generate NDE/OBE/abduction types of experiences which are remarkably similar from subject to subject, as is claimed, should not abduction theorists really stop and consider the implications of that?

Twenty-three years ago I assumed the ETH to be correct. I moved from that position because I simply found the theory inadequate. My own research — and, yes, personal experience with light phenomena (it's not just abductees who can claim an experiential factor) — make me much more satisfied with the earthlights approach. If the current mainstream American ufologists are objective and not simply pushing a spaceship explanation, why do they not set up a long-term Hessdalen-style field study at a location such as the Marfa-Big Bend area of Texas, where light phenomena pop away with moderate regularity? If abduction skeptics can be accused of remaining in their armchairs instead of poking around in another person's epidermis, earthlights doubters can be similarly criticized for not making the required effort. Light phenomena can be tracked down because they are real and we are identifying the landscapes in which they habitually occur.

Of course, there may be ET craft *and* exotic terrestrial phenomena such as earthlights. In that case we have two remarkable and instructive matters on our hands! Again, perhaps they are one and the same thing; maybe the terrain-related nature of earthlight/UFO behavior is a clue to us — in which case ETH adherents ought to be much more inquisitive about earthlight phenomena. My guess is that the lack of American interest in these matters occurs because UFOs have already been identified conceptually as ET craft. It seems the decision has already been made. This is true to a lesser extent in Britain, too. One woman shouted at me during a lecture, "These earthlights may exist, but I'm here to find out about UFOs!"

Mark Rodeghier's editorial was a little more measured and useful than Clark's piece, but even here there was the throw-away comment that "fault lines, after all, are everywhere." If that is thought to be an adequate summary of the earthlights approach, then American ufology really is in trouble. Also, for the record, I should point out that the earthlights work of my colleagues and me in Britain arose independently of the excellent work of Persinger, John Derr, et al, in North America. I came across Persinger's work for the first time during research for *Earth Lights* (1982). Persinger's work is superb, dealing with statistical research and the all-important neurophysiological aspects of electromagnetic fields. But that does not make it necessarily "more sophisticated" than our own research; it just deals with different aspects. We have the most intimate landscape studies and awareness with regard to earthlights available anywhere. We have traced the folk memory of these things in specific regions, and we have noted aspects about the lights not covered by the North American work. It all needs doing. And none of us, in any case, was the first to make the UFO-geology connection. That honor goes to France (Lagarde) and, in another sense, to Italy (Galli).

So let's save the xenophobia for the ETs, shall we?

Paul Devereux
Brecon, Powys
Wales

To the editor:

Paul Devereux's remarks ("Letters" *IUR*, March/April) suggesting that abductions are just a "fad" we should ignore are utterly blind and silly. Failing to pursue the abduction mystery would be like hearing a thief in your home and not responding because you think you may just be hearing things, or it is not really important and you need to be doing something more pressing.

Don Worley
Connersville, Indiana

Pleiades pendulum

To the editor:

Bruce Maccabee's article "Pendulum from the Pleiades" (*IUR*, January/February) shows how easy it is for even the most capable ufologist to overlook positive information contained within UFO evidence if seemingly negative information is also present. I refer to Billy Meier's movie-film segment of March 18, 1975, near Wetzikon, Switzerland, in which the UFO circled or maneuvered either in front of or behind a tree situated next to a farmhouse a substantial distance from Meier's movie camera. The tree was about three times the height of the farmhouse. The fact that Dr. Maccabee noticed that on one swing of the UFO's maneuvers the object "did appear to contact the very top branch of the tree" shows the importance of examining this and related episodes for any other indications which support their genuineness.

In 1979 when the Japanese film crew and Jun-ichi Yaoi observed the film at Meier's residence while it was being videotaped, Yaoi agreed that on one or two of its passes the UFO had passed *behind* the tip of the tree. On the videotape, however, insufficient contrast is present to allow the viewer to decide which side of the tree top it had traversed. This is not to say that Yaoi may not since have been persuaded that he had been mistaken.

There are formidable problems which a hoaxer's accomplices would have had to overcome in arranging for the upper part of the tree under discussion to have suddenly moved in the direction of the UFO's traverse just as it moved past a position corresponding to the treetop. If this is hypothesized to have been accomplished by pulling at the proper instance on a very long cord attached to the treetop, one must seriously question how such a cord could have been put into place. The tree was dense in branches and could not have been climbed, and any tall ladder placed against its side would have provided a precarious ascent. Is the hoaxer supposed to have anticipated *Flying Saucer Review* (March 1988, p. 12) and have known that tree limbs can be bent forward out of the way as a UFO passes?

This tree later died and was cut down, according to Wendelle Stevens, or removed by the Pleiadeans, according to Meier. Both agree that the latter disposition occurred to the tree around which Meier's photos of July 9, 1975, show the UFO to have been posing. It is that tree which has been identified as a mature *abies alba*, or European silver fir (*MUFON UFO Journal*, December 1987, p. 6).

The fact that the motions of the UFO in this film resemble those of an oscillating object suspended by a line, or of a pendulum, was apparently first pointed out by Stevens in his 1982 book *UFO ... Contact from the Pleiades: A Preliminary Investigation Report* (p. 280). But Stevens noted some reasons why he felt the suspended-object hypothesis breaks down. I find the most convincing of these to be that in one or more instances the UFO changed its direction of oscillation rather abruptly with no change in the tilt of its vertical axis.

Although the UFO executed some wobbles during its maneuvers, it twice hovered absolutely motionless for several seconds relative to the treetop. This would be a rare and difficult feat for a hoaxer to achieve with a model tethered by a line as long as 12 to 16 feet, attached to a 25-foot (inclined) pole. A Meier movie segment of March 29, 1976, exhibits more pronounced wobbling motions at times, but in three instances these wobbles stopped much more abruptly (in less than a second) than could a model's oscillations, unless any such model had been skillfully controlled using puppet strings. In the movie segment of March 8, 1976, after the UFO jumps from the top of the frame to near the bottom with no discontinuity whatever in background cloud edges, it is observed to have some 20 diameters of unobstructed sky above it while undergoing no wobbles or oscillations. It departed by moving upwards. Thus if it had been a model, its tethering line would have had to be at least 20 to 30 feet long.

I recommend that the advocate of the hoax hypothesis perform the necessary tests, using an eight-mm movie camera, to determine the degree of difficulty in attempting to achieve these effects.

Jim Deardorff, Ph.D.
Research professor emeritus
Department of atmospheric sciences
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon

Bruce Maccabee replies:

Dr. Deardorff points out that the UFO appears to have contacted the top of the tree. If it were known for a fact that there had been a *large* tree in the location indicated in the film, I would agree that it would be difficult to hoax the contact of the treetop with a pendulum UFO. If the tree was small (several feet high) and filmed from a camera position near the ground, however, the hoax might not be so difficult. This would be true whether it was a real, growing tree or a fake tree.

At any rate, if there had been a *small* tree, then no one would have missed it when someone removed it (the Pleiadeans, according to Meier). If it had been a large tree, as one is led to believe, then surely there would have been evidence of a *normal* removal (e.g., a stump); it was cut down, says Stevens, and at least someone would have remembered it before it was removed. One could, I suppose, search for pictures of the house in the years before Meier's film so that one could see if there in fact

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EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

the absence of any truly compelling arguments against the briefing document itself, though plenty of arguments pretending to be that have been advanced. (As already noted, an MJ-12-related document, part of the briefing paper's appendix, Truman's supposed September 24, 1947, order bringing Majestic-12 into being, does appear vulnerable.) Friedman and Moore have done a good job of showing where the critics are mistaken, but even they concede this is not an argument for the briefing paper's authenticity. It is always possible, and in this case maybe even probable, that the critics are right even if their reasons are wrong.

Perhaps the most surprising claim the briefing paper makes is that Donald Menzel, Harvard astronomer and archdebunker of UFO reports, was a member of Majestic-12, thus making him a conscious agent of an anti-UFO disinformation campaign. This remarkable assertion led Friedman to conduct the sorts of inquiries into Menzel's background that no one had done before. Friedman learned ("The Secret Life of Donald H. Menzel," *IUR*, January/February 1988) that Menzel possessed the highest security clearances and was well-placed within the U.S. intelligence community — just as he would have had to be to be privy to the Ultimate Secret. This amounts to a finding of the consistent-with-the-hypothesis variety, but nothing more. No hint that Menzel secretly took UFOs seriously has come to light, and those who knew him best, including his wife, reject the idea out of hand. To this Friedman rejoins, reasonably enough, that Menzel would not have breathed a word of this even to family members. Yet Menzel's ferocious UFObia was far in excess of what he would have had to exhibit to lead the press and fellow scientists away from the scent (not that most even knew there *was* a scent), suggesting that he was not acting under orders but out of the sort of manic obsession that has fueled other sincere if misguided debunkers.

Nonetheless Menzel's appearance on the MJ-12 list is undeniably curious. Presumably it means *something*. It may indicate, since practically nothing of Menzel's secret life in intelligence was known before Friedman's investigation, that the hoax (if hoax it was) was perpetrated by individuals privy to classified information. In other words, this is no ordinary hoax; it had a serious purpose connected with national-security concerns. On the other hand, the hoaxer may have erred in making one extraordinary claim too many. Amusingly, it is not the briefing document's claim of a UFO crash that is the most difficult to believe; it is the claim that Menzel knew about it. The evidence for the crash is substantial, that for Menzel's knowledge of it nil. A friend of mine once suggested that perhaps Menzel's name was put on the list for a reason: to assure any knowledgeable person within the intelligence community that the briefing paper was not, after all, a real leak of real information.

None of this is to say, of course, that the MJ-12 briefing document has been proven to be bogus, or that no such project (whether called MJ-12 or something else) could have existed. But it is to say that, despite the enormous, even heroic, research efforts of Stan Friedman, the issue is as unresolved — and probably unresolvable — as ever. It could be true. It could be one of those exceedingly rare instances in human history when diamonds are found floating in cesspools. That doesn't happen often. More conceivably (though also unprovably), the briefing paper was hatched as part of a scheme to distract investigators from pursuits truly threatening to the cover-up.

To all present appearances (though future events may radically alter our perception), the MJ-12 controversy has gotten us nowhere, maybe less than nowhere, since it has consumed valuable time that might have been spent more productively on other matters, not the least of them Roswell. From the beginning, it is true, CUFOS encouraged the MJ-12 investigation and *IUR* has reported, and will continue to report, new developments. But ufology's resources are limited and I think most would agree, after 2 1/2 years, that MJ-12 has eaten up too many of them already. Unless Friedman's Fund report brings forth major new evidence, all of us would be well-advised to move on to something else. If an answer to the MJ-12 puzzle is to be found, perhaps we'll get to it one day, while we're looking for something else. But as a whole new chapter in the Roswell saga begins to unfold, we have better things to do than to pursue a wild goose across a barren landscape. — *Jerome Clark*

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Roswell — *continued from page 8*

television program on Roswell did not film at the actual site. CUFOS wishes to preserve the site for future scientific research.

It is, of course, entirely possible that we will never recover any debris from the crash, no matter how elaborate the effort. But it is imperative that someone try to do so. It is a shame that this work is occurring nine years after the book on Roswell was published, but Moore and Friedman, for whatever reason, did not plan, or even suggest, an onsite study. Forty-two years after the event is a long time, but CUFOS has high hopes that scientific methodology, combined with trained personnel and the proper equipment, may just open up this secret chapter in UFO history.

We plan to publish future updates on the Roswell investigation in the pages of *IUR*. Randle and Schmitt are planning a book which will concentrate on their investigation and interviews with the many persons connected with the event. CUFOS will eventually publish a technical report on the complete investigation.

At some time in the future, I will be recruiting personnel for the next expedition. If any reader of this article believes he or she can help with this work, I invite that person to contact me. To borrow a phrase, CUFOS will leave no stone unturned in its study of the rocky, dry, sparsely-populated, and isolated Roswell crash site. ■

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Radiative — *continued from page 11*

affect the temporal lobe in human brains is not well supported by research.

Furthermore, although TST proponents have suggested that this same strain energy may cause increased levels of cancer in persons living or working in UFO-flap areas, the literature is not supportive of such effects. In fact, on the matter of low-level radiation's causing cancer, Carstensen says, "The entire body of laboratory investigation provides no evidence in support of such a possibility. The evidence from epidemiology is very weak."

We are all being constantly bombarded by radiation from a wide variety of sources. There is some evidence that low-level EM radiation may be responsible for some health effects. So far laboratory findings have been conflicting, and the precise nature of these effects and their mechanisms is not known with any certainty. Given that we are exposed to varying amounts of radiation from man-made sources, the contribution from vaguely-understood seismic radiation at considerable depths from us is most likely less than is required to produce the broad effects claimed by TST proponents. The controversy over biological effects of man-made radiation exists on several fronts, and the difficulty in verifying or understanding the effects is obvious when one examines the literature on topics such as the hazards of video-display terminals and "sick building syndrome."

TST is an interesting theory which deserves attention for several reasons. First, it may be a viable explanation for a small fraction of UFO sightings which are not otherwise given to a simple interpretation. Secondly, the research involved in developing TST may provide insight into environmental-radiation concerns. As well, we are learning more and more about the mechanics of seismic energy, not to mention the advances we are making in the fields of electromagnetics, earthquake lights, physiological psychology, perception and a host of others. The claims of links with parapsychology and other anomalous phenomena should be taken with a liberal amount of salt, since the statistical studies that use such data are not supported by mechanisms with bases in science at the present time. But as a contribution to ufology, TST merits consideration, though probably not the wide attention and acceptance it has received. ■

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UFO dumbbell — *continued from page 13*

their descriptions and details. When I asked for an interpretation of what the object might have been, M.H. would not venture an opinion. He used reasonable qualifications in his statements. He said he was willing to be interviewed in person at any reasonable time and did not seem embarrassed at being contacted about his sighting. He said he had never seen anything like this object before. He had seen the major modern movies depicting UFOs (*Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *E.T.*) but remarked that these films did not contain imagery similar to what he and his son saw. Although he had never sighted a UFO before, he said, he had heard several stories of radar contacts made in Korea during the war while he was stationed there. M.H. has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. Son Kevin behaved like a typical teenager, seeming impatient with our many questions and wanting to leave to do something else.

Reports of dumbbell-shaped objects are not uncommon and have been related in the UFO literature. One such case follows:

M.D., a private pilot, and his father E.D. were flying in a light plane on October 24, 1982, at 9:24 a.m. local time about 10 miles southeast of Lowell, Indiana, when they sighted two metallic connected spheres of different size and with a complex series of nozzles hanging below them. This rigid object performed strange aerial flight maneuvers and was clearly self-propelled. It accelerated at a much greater rate than that of the 1968 Cherokee model 140 airplane. It produced, the witnesses said, turbulence behind it. ■

Letters — *continued from page 21*

was a large tree there.

As for the abrupt changes in dynamics of the pendulum, the pendulum could be forced to move or change its state of motion abruptly by a string or strings attached directly to the pendulum UFO. At the very beginning of the film segment the UFO moves slowly to the left and upward in an arc, just as one might imagine if a pendulum bob were pulled away from its normal rest position directly below its suspension point by a thread attached directly to the UFO. By manipulating the suspension itself, perhaps using a pole, and by also using a thread attached directly to the UFO, a hoaxer could create numerous types of motions of the pendulum.

To the editor:

Before we let Maccabee condemn Meier to the pit with a pendulum, we should recall that the characteristic of harmonic motion is common to a large set of other, generally-accepted sighting reports.

Witnesses say, for example: "Traveling at a high rate of speed, they seemed to be oscillating about their lateral axis..." (July 4, 1947, Portland, Oregon); "An unusual flight characteristic was a slow fluttering motion — it rocked back and forth in approx. 40-degree banks at about one-second intervals throughout its course" (March 29, 1952, Misawa, Japan); "As it flew, it oscillated from side to side, much like the pendulum of a clock" (September 22, 1956, Williston, North Dakota).

Similarly, for objects descending or hovering: "As it lost height, it began to flutter like a leaf or, if you prefer, oscillate like a pendulum" (September 19, 1952, Dishforth Airdrome, Yorkshire, England); "It made a tightcircle in the sky, its luminous focus on the ground rotating around itself" (February 24, 1958, between Nazare and Salvador); and so on and on.

Thus, if a movie were available for each of these cases, Maccabee's quantitative analysis could be applied and the same conclusion reached.

It is not my intention to defend Meier but to advise caution, lest we, as Allen Hynek would say, throw the baby out with the washwater.

Thomas M. Olsen
Phoenix, Arizona

The current literature

Druffel, Ann, and D. Scott Rogo. *The Tujunga Canyon Contacts.* New York: Signet, May 1989. 341p. $4.95.

A revision of the original 1980 edition, this paperback provides an interesting update to the series of abduction events that occurred to a group of southern California women, beginning with the March 22, 1953, experiences of Sara Shaw and Jan Whitley. Sara Shaw remains active in the California UFO community and is still seeking the meaning of her experiences, while Jan Whitley, whom some have seen as a catalyst for the abductions, died in 1987.

Druffel and Rogo continue to hold differing opinions on the nature of abduction events. Druffel now believes, along with Gordon Creighton and Ahmad Jamaludin, that the abducting entities are intelligent, nonhuman entities known to the Koran as jinns. Rogo adheres to his opinion that UFO abductions are objectified projections of the abductee's mind. He admits, however, that the evidence is not so clear-cut as it once seemed, and he cautions abduction researchers against emotional commitment to any particular theory.

One serious flaw in this edition is probably the publisher's fault: instead of a revision of the index that appeared in the earlier work, we get an omission of it.

Randle, Kevin D. *The UFO Casebook.* New York: Warner Books, September 1989. 256p. $4.95.

People new to the UFO field have few current sources of information on the subject's rich history. Richard Hall's *Uninvited Guests* is one excellent overview, but it is usually found in only the larger bookstores. Now Kevin Randle has produced a mass-market paperback that serves as a handy introduction for beginners as well as a memory-jogger for old hands. His "just the facts, ma'am" writing style recalls the old *Project UFO* TV series and is understandable given his former role as intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force. Randle also has some perceptive comments about military UFO investigations and the probability that UFOs are taken seriously at very high levels of government. Many of the major cases since 1947 are covered adequately, as are Randle's own investigations and interviews (including one with CUFOS' Don Schmitt). — *George M. Eberhart*